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USIB-M-256

14 February 1963

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Minutes of  
Two-hundred-fifty-sixth Meeting  
United States Intelligence Board  
USIB Conference Room  
Central Intelligence Agency, at 1100 hours, 14 February 1963

Acting Director of Central Intelligence  
Lieutenant General Marshall S. Carter  
Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Ray S. Cline, Deputy Director (Intelligence), Central Intelligence Agency, acting for Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Mr. Roger Hilsman, Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State  
Lieutenant General Joseph F. Carroll, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency  
Major General Alva R. Fitch, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army  
Captain Rufus L. Taylor, Acting Assistant Chief of Naval Operations, (Intelligence), Department of the Navy  
Major General Robert A. Breitweiser, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, United States Air Force  
Lieutenant General Gordon A. Blake, Director, National Security Agency  
Major General Richard Collins, Director for Intelligence, Joint Staff  
Mr. Harry S. Traynor, Atomic Energy Commission representative to USIB  
Mr. William O. Cregar, acting for Federal Bureau of Investigation representative to USIB

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Intelligence Requirements for  
Photographic Reconnaissance  
of Cuba

(USIB-D-41.5/39, Final, USIB -  
Approved, 21 November 1962;  
USIB-D-41.5/41, 6 December 1962;  
USIB-M-247, 5 December 1962,  
item 6; USIB-M-255, items 3 and 7. a. )

In opening this special meeting the Acting Chairman noted that it had been convened at the request of the DIA member to consider certain aspects of a recent message from the Director of Central Intelligence which had been discussed at the 13 February USIB meeting (USIB-M-255, item 7. a. ) and circulated, subsequent to adjournment of that session, to the USIB members, the Secretaries of State and Defense and Mr. McGeorge Bundy.

General Carroll then advised the Board members of the concern which the Secretary of Defense had expressed with respect to the implications of the reference in paragraph 1 of the DCI message to a report which might be construed as a possible indication of hardened MRBM or IRBM sites. General Carroll proposed that the Board review the evidence on that report and come to some conclusion regarding it. The Acting CIA member pointed out that the report had come from an untested source and had only mentioned wells, not silos or missiles. General Carter noted that Mr. McCone's message was not primarily concerned with the agent report as such, but in stressing that it was dangerous to take a categorical or complacent position regarding the situation in Cuba in the absence of on-site inspection.

Following a detailed discussion of the nature of the evidence bearing on the possibility of Soviet reintroduction into Cuba of an offensive capability to which Mr. McCone had referred in the afore-cited message, and related matters, the Board took the following actions:

a. Agreed that intelligence community evaluation as to the significance of the agent report regarding deep vertical wells, three to four meters in diameter in a specified Cuban area, could not be determined without obtaining more information, and that the requirement for collection of additional information regarding such agent reports must be related to other priority intelligence targets in Cuba.

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b. Agreed that the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR) should review the present USIB-approved overall program and requirements for photographic reconnaissance of Cuba (USIB-D-41.5/39; USIB-D-41.5/41) in light of the discussion in the meeting and, taking appropriate account of unverified reports of secret Soviet activity in Cuba (of which the agent report in the DCI message is one example), develop recommendations for low-level photographic coverage of the three or four suspect target areas of greatest priority concern, for clearance with Board members by mid-morning, 15 February.


c. Agreed that the foregoing program and requirements should again be presented to higher authority for consideration, particularly with respect to the need for low-level coverage, together with a specific request that approval be given for the conduct of low-level photographic reconnaissance of the three or four priority target areas selected through action in b. above. General Carter indicated that he would make such a presentation to the proper authority on 15 February, if possible.

d. Noted (1) a statement by General Fitch regarding the Army's capabilities for stepping up clandestine operations in Cuba and (2) a statement by General Carter regarding efforts being made by CIA to re-direct and improve its clandestine collection resources in that area, and his view that Army should confer with CIA about stepping up clandestine operations.

e. Noted the Acting Chairman's statement that he believed it desirable for USIB to be briefed on the total U. S. photographic reconnaissance capabilities, with particular emphasis on new techniques. He indicated that he would take steps to arrange such a presentation to the Board possibly at its next regular meeting on 20 February. \*

Adjournment: 1240

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JAMES S. LAY, JR.  
Executive Secretary

\* The Secretariat has been advised that this presentation will be scheduled for a USIB meeting subsequent to 20 February, probably that of 27 February.

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